Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion, the distal portion of the elongate body defining a proximal end and being more flexible than the proximal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body such that proximal movement of the steering wire will result in a pulling force being applied to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member secured to the distal portion of the elongate body , entirely located inward of the outer surface of the elongate body, and defining a proximal end that is substantially adjacent to the proximal end of the elongate body distal portion; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a central lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member lumen offset from the central lumen, at least a portion of the stiffening member being located within the stiffening member lumen and the steering wire not being located within the stiffening member lumen; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

3. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lumen comprises a central lumen and the stiffening member comprises a plurality of stiffening members, the apparatus further comprising:

a plurality of stiffening member lumens respectively offset from the central lumen, at least a portion of the stiffening members being located within respective stiffening member lumens.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate body defines a longitudinal axis and a perimeter extending around the longitudinal axis and the stiffening member comprises an elongate member extending only partially around the perimeter.

5. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a substantially constant width.

6. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a first portion defining a first width and a second portion defining a second width less than the first width.

7. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a proximal portion defining a proximal portion width and a distal portion defining a distal portion width less than the proximal portion width.

8. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a first portion defining a first width, a second portion defining a second width less than the first width and third portion defining a third width substantially equal to the first width, and the second portion is located between the first and third portions.

9. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a relatively long first portion defining a first width, a relatively short second portion defining a second width less than the first width, a relatively short third portion defining a third width substantially equal to the first width, and a relatively long fourth portion defining a fourth width less than the first width.

10. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member includes a prebent portion.

11. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a constant thickness.

12. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a variable thickness.

13. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stiffening member comprises a coil portion and a elongate portion.

14. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coil portion and elongate portion are secured to one another.

15. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coil portion and elongate portion are integrally formed.

16. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the stiffening member comprises a tubular member with a plurality of notches.

17. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lumen comprises a central lumen.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~, comprising~~: as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion comprises ~~an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and~~ a central lumen ~~extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;~~

~~a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;~~

~~a steering wire lumen offset from the central lumen, at least a portion of the steering wire being located within the steering wire lumen~~

~~a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body; and~~

~~a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body~~.

19. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proximal portion of the elongate body is relatively stiff and the distal portion of the elongate body is relatively flexible.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

an anchoring member ~~associated with~~ located within the wall of the distal portion of the elongate body between the inner surface and the outer surface and secured to the steering wire; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

21. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the anchoring member is substantially radiopaque.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the stiffening member defines a distal end secured to the anchoring member.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion;

an anchoring member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and secured to the steering wire;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a distal end secured to the anchoring member; and

an anti-tear device ~~associated with the stiffening member~~ configured and positioned relative to the stiffening member so as to prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body when the stiffening member bends.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 24, wherein the stiffening member defines~~ , comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion;

an anchoring member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and secured to the steering wire;

an anti-tear device; and

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a distal end secured to the anchoring member and a proximal end secured to the anti-tear device.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

~~an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;~~

~~a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion that is operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;~~

~~a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;~~

~~a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body; and~~

a catheter supporting at least one of a diagnostic element and a therapeutic element located within the lumen and slidable relative thereto.

27-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device is secured to the stiffening member.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member.

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member with a slot.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein a portion of the steering wire is positioned within the slot.

47. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

an anti-tear device ~~associated with~~ positioned adjacent to at least a portion of the stiffening member and configured to prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body when the stiffening member bends; and

a steering wire, which is not connected to the anti-tear device and which is not located within the stiffening member, having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body.

48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device is secured to the stiffening member.

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a proximal end; and

an anti-tear device, defining a proximal end and a distal end, secured to the proximal end of the stiffening member such that the proximal end of the anti-tear device is located within the distal portion of the elongate body.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member.

51. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~, comprising:~~ as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member with a slot

~~an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;~~

~~a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;~~

~~a tubular member with a slot associated with the stiffening member; and~~

~~a steering wire, which is not connected to the tubular member with a slot, having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body~~.

52. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body; and

a ~~tubular~~ substantially c-shaped anti-tear device with a slot associated with the stiffening member;

wherein a portion of the steering wire is positioned within the slot.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the elongate body defines a longitudinal axis and the stiffening member extends less than entirely around the longitudinal axis.

54. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 53, wherein the anti-tear device extends further around the longitudinal axis than the stiffening member.

55-63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body such that the stiffening member will apply a force over an elongate body surface area when the stiffening member is bent;

anti-tear means, associated with the stiffening member, for increasing the elongate body surface area over which the force is applied when the stiffening member is bent to ~~preventing~~ prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body; and

a steering wire, which is not connected to the anti-tear means, having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body.

65. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the elongate body defines a distal end and at least a portion of the stiffening member is located proximal of the distal end of the elongate body.